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General Assembly

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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 11 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of the aggressive conduct by the United States authorities at JFK Airport in New York towards Ms. Mithal Sabri Jassem, a member of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Iraqi Women and a member of the Iraqi delegation to the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly, who suffered severe physical and psychological distress without any justification. On the evening of 6 June 2000, Ms. Jassem arrived at JFK Airport in New York holding a valid passport with a visa dated 5 June 2000 issued by the United States Embassy in Amman. Upon her arrival, Ms. Jassem was taken to an isolated room reserved for suspects and criminals, where the United States authorities interrogated, photographed and fingerprinted her, after which she was allowed to leave the airport.

The United States authorities' treatment of Ms. Jassem reflects blatant contempt for the most elementary principles of civilized behaviour, and constitutes a serious and flagrant violation of their obligations under the Headquarters Agreement. According to that Agreement, the host country must, *inter alia*, facilitate the entry of delegations coming to participate in the work of the United Nations at its Headquarters in New York. The provocative and uncivilized conduct of the United States authorities towards delegations of certain countries arriving to participate in the work of the United Nations in New York, including Iraqi delegations, has reached the point where indulgence is no longer appropriate. The United Nations must therefore intervene to put an end to such conduct. We hope that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country will address this question and take appropriate action to halt such barbaric conduct on the part of the United States authorities.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 8 June 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and wishes to refer to the issue of the travel limitations and restrictions imposed by the authorities of the host country upon some permanent missions accredited to the United Nations, including the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, as well as on staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities.

On 15 May 2000, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations submitted to the United States Mission to the United Nations a travel authorization beyond the 25-mile zone in favour of H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, in response to an invitation of the Board of Governors and members of Town Hall Los Angeles Forum.

The authorities of the host country denied orally the travel authorization request with the argument that the trip of the Ambassador of Cuba had no relation whatsoever to the official business of the United Nations.

The travel limitations and restrictions imposed by the authorities of the host country upon the Cuban personnel are all the more incongruent in the light of the successive resolutions adopted by consensus by the General Assembly, under the item related to the Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. In total disregard of the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly, the host country continues to impose travel restrictions arbitrarily and for political motives on the staff of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations denounces the failure of the authorities of the United States of America to comply with the decisions of the General Assembly and requests the authorities of the host country to take the necessary steps in full compliance with international law, particularly with the provisions of the international legal instruments on diplomatic privileges and immunities to which the Government of the United States is a party, to give a satisfactory reply to the repeated demands by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations that its rights be respected in relation to the travel control being imposed on its staff members.

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